

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COAL RESEARCH; STEVER VISIT; VISIT OF
POLISH MINING EXPERTS

REF: (A) WARSAW 5828; (B) STATE 223278

1. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFFS NOVEMBER 15 VICE
MINISTER ZYGFRYD NOWAK, MINISTRY OF MINING AND
POWER, STATED GOP ATTACHES HIGHEST PRIORITY TO
EXPANSION OF COOPERATION WITH US IN COAL RESEARCH.
(FYI NOWAK APPARENTLY EXPRESSED COORDINATED GOP
VIEW: IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION SAME DAY, CZESNIK,
FOREIGN COOPERATION DEPARTMENT, SCIENCE MINISTRY,
SAID POLES WOULD LIKE TO SEE COAL RESEARCH EVENTUALLY
OCCUPY 50 PERCENT OF OVERALL S&T BILATERAL PROGRAM).

2. ELABORATING ON COOPERATIVE POSSIBILITIES, NOWAK
PLACED EMPHASIS ON LIQUEFACTION AND GASIFICATION.
WHILE ADMITTING THAT POLISH TECHNOLOGY IN THESE
AREAS IS SEVERAL YEARS BEHIND US, NOWAK THOUGHT
POLES COULD ASSIST US THROUGH CONSTRUCTION HERE OF
DEMONSTRATION PLANTS (I.E. APPROXIMATELY 1,000 TONS
PER DAY). NOWAK SAID DURING PAST SIX MONTHS MINISTRY
OF MINING HAD CONTACT WITH THE FOLLOWING US FIRMS:
OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, STANDARD OIL OF INDIANA, BABCOCK-
WILCOX, FMC CORP, INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS AND CONTROLS;
AND POSSIBILITIES OF DEMONSTRATION PLANTS WERE DISCUSSED.
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NOTING THAT RESEARCH IN COAL TECHNOLOGY IS HIGHLY

SUBSIDIZED BY THE US GOVERNMENT, NOWAK ENVISAGED THREE-SIDED COOPERATION; CONSTRUCTION OF DEMONSTRATION PLANTS COULD BE A COOPERATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN US BUREAU OF MINES AND MINISTRY OF MINING, USING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED ON LABORATORY SCALE BY PRIVATE US CONTRACTOR. POLAND WOULD PARTICIPATE IN RISK OF DEMONSTRATION PLANT DEVELOPMENT BY PROVIDING SITE, LABOR, MATERIALS, OPERATIONS MONITORING, AND THE CONSIDERABLE POLISH EXPERIENCE WITH COAL, IN RETURN FOR ACCESS TO APPLIED TECHNOLOGY. NOWAK ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INCREASING COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS WHERE POLISH COMPETENCE IS HIGH, SUCH AS COAL MINE SAFETY, AUTOMATED TRANSPORT AND VENTILATION SYSTEMS, OPEN CAST MINING, LAND RECLAMATION, AND ROCK MECHANICS. AN ADDITIONAL TOPIC OF JOINT RESEARCH MIGHT BE FLY-ASH UTILIZATION.

3. EMBOFFS PROVIDED NOWAK REVISED ITINERARY FOR PROPOSED NOVEMBER 26 VISIT TO US. HE CONFIRMED THAT VISIT MUST BE POSTPONED TO LATTER HALF OF JANUARY, INDICATING THAT SOME SUGGESTED ADDITIONS TO ITINERARY WILL BE PROVIDED SOON. EXPERT DELEGATION HE WILL HEAD IS INTERESTED IN MINING TECHNIQUES AND COAL PREPARATION IN ADDITION TO LIQUEFACTION AND GASIFICATION. HE PROPOSED THAT THE GROUP MIGHT BE SPLIT IN TWO PARTS ON ABOVE BASIS. EMBOFFS NOTED THAT POLISH EXPERTS VISITS TO US PRIVATE FIRMS USUALLY PROGRAMMED BY POLISH EMBASSY IN US.; HOWEVER, EXCEPTION MIGHT BE MADE IN VIEW OF UNUSUALLY CLOSE RESEARCH RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN US BUREAU OF MINES AND INDUSTRY. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND INTERIOR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER.

4. MEETING ON COAL RESEARCH COOPERATION WITH VICE PRIME MINISTER MITREGA, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF MINING AND ENERGY, IS INCLUDED IN SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR DR. STEVER VISIT WARSAW DECEMBER 5-7, TO BE SENT SEPTTEL.
DAVIES

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